TOP STORIES: Retail Report

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In no particular order, we've rounded up the top 10 stories from the Washtenaw County retail scene in 2007. Enjoy.

TOP STORY

Ypsilanti gets Dos Hermanos

Dos Hermanos Market, a family owned and operated grocery, quietly opened its doors in June in downtown Ypsilanti. But the reception the shop has received from the community was anything but quiet.

The shop is the only grocery in the downtown, and residents welcomed it with open arms. Owners – and brothers – Reyes and Nicolas Arreola don't just sell Hispanic food, either; Dos Hermanos sells a full array of meat, produce, fresh-baked bread and other items from across North and South America.

TOP STORY

Whole Foods plans 2nd store

Anyone who has dealt with the nightmare of trying to find a parking space near Ann Arbor's popular **Whole Foods Market**, especially in the evening, was glad to hear the May news that a second local store is planned.

Whole Foods is moving into much of **Mervyns** old space in Cranbrook Village. The retailer hopes to open its new store there in the coming year.

The new Whole Foods will be the Texas-based natural and organic food chain's biggest Michigan store and will employ nearly 200 people.

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Customers line up for the opening of the new Apple store in Briarwood Mall on July 21.

TOP STORY

New Big George's, green roof

For the first time in its 50-year history, **Big George's Home Appliance Mart** got a brand new home when it opened in its new, bright and airy West Stadium Boulevard store in May.

The 20,000-square-foot building has one of the city's few "green" roofs, which means vegetation native to Michigan grows on top. Vice President Mark Bishar said he hoped Big George's green roof inspired other businesses in town to consider adding environmentally friendly amenities to their facilities.

The new Big George's was built next door to the old store at West Stadium and Federal boulevards in Ann Arbor, on a site that used to be home to a Mobil gas station.

TOP STORY

Briarwood gets Apple store

It was quite a scene when **Apple** opened a store in Briarwood Mall over the summer.

More than 400 people lined up in the mall to be among the first to get into the sleek store, which stocks Apple's Mac computers, its popular iPod and accessories. The Ann Arbor store is Apple's fourth retail location in Michigan.

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